

Appl. No. 09/745,538
Amdt. Dated August 6, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 12, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12872-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3184

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-34 have been cancelled and new Claims 35-52 have been added. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added and that the new claims were not added for any reason related to patentability, but rather to capture the scope to which the Applicant is entitled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections – Specification

The specification was objected to because of several informalities and failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the specification. In response, the Applicant has modified the specification as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-27 and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lavian, et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2004/0076161 hereinafter Lavian). Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-27 and 29-34 have been canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 5, 17 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavian in view of Hoffman et al. (US 6,094,435 hereinafter Hoffman). Claims 5, 17 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice and the rejection has been rendered moot.

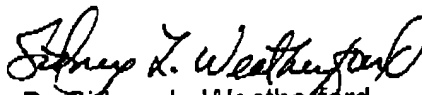
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,


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